Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-19 (Canceled).

20. (New) A method of preparing bone at a site for the repair of damaged cartilage comprising:

positioning a reamer having cutting teeth at one end at the repair site via a centralizing device housed within the reamer and having a pointed end for embedding into the cartilage and defining a centre of a circle delineating the damaged cartilage repair site;

biasing the pointed end axially outwardly of the reamer via biasing means whereby a surgeon may operate the device via one hand by simultaneously maintaining the centralizing device engaged with the cartilage whilst operating the reamer;

rotating and apply pressure to the reamer to form an annular groove in the bone underlying the damaged cartilage;

allowing bone debris by the cutting teeth to escape from the groove as it is formed via at least one debris channel extending from the cutting teeth at one end of the reamer as the groove is formed, wherein a length by which the at least one channel extends over the length of the reamer from the cutting teeth is greater than the length by which the teeth extend along the length of the reamer;

releasing the pressure and withdrawing the reamer from the annular groove without dislodging the central bone column from the underlying bone, the central bone column defined by the annular groove; and

disengaging the pointed end of the centralizing device from the repair site.

21. (New) The method as claimed in claim 20 further comprising:

prior to the step of rotating the reamer to form the annular groove, positioning a cartilage cutter at the repair site, the cartilage cutter comprising a sharp cutting circular edge;

pressing the cutter against the cartilage surface to embed the cutter around the damaged cartilage;

protecting the region of the cartilage around the repair site by the cutter maintained in an embedded position whilst the reamer is rotated and the annular groove is formed.

22. (New) The method as claimed in claim 20 wherein an end of the reamer remote from the centralizing device is adapted to be coupled to a power tool.

23 (New) The method as claimed in claim 20 wherein the length by which the at least one channel extends from the cutting edge is greater than the width or diameter of the reamer.

24. (New) The method as claimed in claim 20 wherein the at least one channel is aligned parallel with the longitudinal axis of the reamer.

25. (New) The method as claimed in claim 20 wherein the at least one channel extends at an inclined angle from the cutting edge relative to the longitudinal axis of the reamer.

26. (New) The method as claimed in claim 20 wherein the length by which the at least one channel extends along the longitudinal axis is greater than the width of the channels.

27. (New) The method as claimed in claim 20 comprising two channels extending from the cutting edge of the reamer.

28. (New) The method as claimed in claim 20 wherein the as least one channel extends along the reamer from the cutting edge by a distance of 10 mm to 15 mm.